

New Jersey's 13th district is home to, what is considered by the Department of Homeland Security, as the most dangerous 2-mile stretch of road in the country. With one of the largest ports in the country - Port Newark/Elizabeth, chemical plants, the Newark Airport, and critical transportation infrastructure - I have been working with my colleagues in Congress to ensure the safety of my district and the greater New York/New Jersey area.

During the 111th Congress, I supported the fiscal year 2010 Budget Resolution Conference Report, which addresses key national security concerns including border and transportation security. Key investments were made to increase the security of our nation's transportation and cyber infrastructure, as well as targeted investments to improved state and local government emergency communications systems.

In early 2008, the Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, Bennie Thompson (D-MS), visited the 13th district as a way to better understand the security issues we face in our community. Chairman Thompson understands that the port and transportation infrastructure located within our district are absolutely critical to our national security. During my time in Congress, I have been a strong advocate of adequate funding to secure our ports, chemical security plants, and other significant infrastructure.

In the upcoming year I will continue to work for increased funding for port security, including 100 percent shipping container screening, to ensure their safety before they make their way onto our nation's roads and rail lines. Congress will also consider legislation that would direct the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to establish a system that would require cargo on all inbound foreign passenger flights to be screened; flight attendants would be required to complete a five hour self-defense course; and security training programs would be established for crews operating cargo planes. Furthermore, TSA would be given the authority to higher an additional 300 surface transportation security inspectors to ensure the safety of our highways, tunnels and bridges. By maintaining the safety of these critical areas I am working to keep our communities safe, ensure our lines of transport for passengers and goods, and protect our economy.